

Smack Mellon

92 Plymouth Street @ Washington Street, Dumbo, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tel: 718.834.8761 | smackmellon.org | Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 12–6 PM
Contact: Jessica Holburn jholburn@smackmellon.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Smack Mellon Artist Studio Program Spring Open Studios

Saturday, April 27 & Sunday, April 28, 2019, 1–6 PM



Images left to right,
first row: Ronny Quevedo, Beatrice Glow, Priyanka Dasgupta & Chad Marshall
second row: Felicita Maynard, Rebecca Shapass, Jia Sung

In conjunction with DUMBO Open Studios, Smack Mellon's studios will be open to the public on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28 from 1 to 6 PM on both days. Also on view in the main gallery space will be Smack Mellon's 2019 Benefit Exhibition. The reception will be Saturday, April 27th, 4-6 PM.

Launched in 2000, Smack Mellon's Studio Program provides six artists each year with a private studio, fellowship, access to a fabrication shop and media lab, and studio visits with curators, critics and gallerists. We host Open Studios twice a year, inviting the public to interact with our artists in their studios.

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Current artists in residence are Priyanka Dasgupta and Chad Marshall, Beatrice Glow, Ronny Quevedo, and New York Community Trust Van Lier Fellows Felicita Maynard, Rebecca Shapass, and Jia Sung. Our current work exchange artist is Jocelyn Chase.

Priyanka Dasgupta and Chad Marshall have been working collaboratively since 2015. They imagine the medium of installation as a catalyst for dialogue by combining video, sculpture, sound, photography, painting and texts. Their recent work considers the role of the contemporary diasporic artist in making visible alternate histories and disrupting binary driven distinctions between societal norms and stereotypical expectations. **Beatrice Glow** is an interdisciplinary artist and multi-sensory storyteller. In her recent *Smoke Series*, Glow takes on the history and presentation of smoke from its presence in worship, cremation, industry, and warfare, as well as nature, imagination, commerce, seduction, illusion, and addiction. The project narrates a parallel of historical trauma that surfaces with the history of tobacco from sacredness into the commercial and transactional history of the U.S., including implications regarding labor and spirituality. **Ronny Quevedo** works in a variety of mediums including sculpture, installation, and drawing. Inspired by his own family history and migration from Ecuador, Quevedo transcribes the graphics of locality, community, and remembered environments into his work. Lines and markings from basketball and indoor futbol courts, freehand signage, and milk crates are just a few of the forms that find their way into Quevedo's transcriptions, allowing the work to serve simultaneously as an homage to the narratives of historically marginalized peoples and a platform for dialogue and community engagement. **Felicita "Felli" Maynard** is a first generation Afro-Latinx-American exploring history, identity, gender and the black body. Through intimate collaborations, Maynard creates liberating and honest portraits that confront historical narratives and traumas. Maynard bridges a darkroom process, alternative methods of photography, and digital technologies to investigate black female spirituality, tenderness, and strength. **Rebecca Shapass** is a filmmaker and multi-media artist born, raised, and based in New York City. Her art and image-making practice revolve around an interest in exploring femininity in all of its forms and expressions. Shapass translates fleeting moments into found footage and diaristic films, digital art, photography, installations, and performances. Her work creates spaces that foster open dialogues among women struggling with ideas of femininity, female stereotypes, and feminine taboos. **Jia Sung**'s work explores the reinvention of narratives. Whether drawn from folklore or personal history, these stories are transformed into powerful opportunities for subversion. In painting, watercolor, and prints, Sung engages the body as a conduit for questions about cultural, postcolonial, and femme identity.

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The final panelists that selected the artists for 2018-2019 were Connie H. Choi, Associate Curator of the Permanent Collection, The Studio Museum in Harlem; Carmen Hermo, Assistant Curator, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum; Gabriel de Guzman, Curator & Director of Exhibitions, Smack Mellon. The preliminary panelists were Ivan Monforte, Cate Giordano, Joiri Minaya, Karina Aguilera Skvirsky, Rachele Mozman and Maria Berrio, all former Smack Mellon Studio Artists.

The Artist Studio Program was launched in 2000 in response to the crisis of affordable studio space for artists living and working in New York City. The program provides six eligible artists working in all visual arts media a free private studio space accessible 24/7 and a fellowship. Artists also have access to shared common areas: a media lab with editing suites, a shop for wood and metal fabrication, and a kitchen. Each year, Smack Mellon convenes a panel of art professionals to select the artists from over 600 applicants. The studios are located on the lower level of our building at 92 Plymouth Street in Dumbo, Brooklyn.

The 2019-2020 program begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 15, 2020. The next round of residents will be announced next month. Our upcoming application process for 2020-2021 opens in the fall of 2019. All six of the artists selected for the studio program will receive a fellowship, three will receive a Van Lier Fellowship. Please visit our website to review eligibility and the Van Lier Fellowship qualifications.

The Smack Mellon Artist Studio Program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, New York City Council Member Stephen Levin, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, and with generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund of The New York Community Trust, Jerome Foundation, The Greenwich Collection Ltd, Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation Inc., Select Equity Group Foundation, and Smack Mellon's Members.

Smack Mellon programs are also made possible with generous support from The Roy and Niuta Titus Foundation, Robert Lehman Foundation, Iorio Charitable Foundation, and Exploring The Arts.

Space for Smack Mellon's programs is generously provided by the Walentas family and Two Trees Management.

